

CLAIMS

1. A hand-held dispenser for dispensing a multiplicity of unit products having a storage area  
5 for storing the unit products, an outlet opening through which the unit products are dispensable from the dispenser, a dispensing mechanism actuatable to dispense the unit products through the outlet opening, and a timing mechanism adapted in use to time the  
10 period since last dispensing of a unit product.
2. The dispenser of claim 1 in which the timing mechanism is adapted in use to indicate the time since  
15 last dispensing.
3. The dispenser of claim 1 or 2 having a display forming part of the timing mechanism on which, in use, the time since last dispensing is graphically indicated thereon.  
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4. The dispenser of claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the timing mechanism has a controller programmed with a predetermined dispensing regime for dispensing of the unit products and the controller controls the timing  
25 mechanism so that it provides an alert when dispensing of the unit products is required in accordance with the dispensing regime.
5. The dispenser of any one of the preceding  
30 claims wherein the timing mechanism is an electronic timing mechanism.

6. The dispenser of claim 3 or either one of claims 4 and 5 when appended on claim 3 wherein the display is an electronic display.

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7. The dispenser of any one of the preceding claims further having a dispensing indicator for indicating the number of unit products left in, or dispensed from, the dispenser.

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8. The dispenser of claim 7 wherein the dispensing indicator is integrated with the dispenser such that it is automatically updated in response to the dispensing of the unit products therefrom.

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9. The dispenser of claim 7 or 8 in which the dispensing indicator has a display to indicate the number of unit products left or dispensed.

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10. The dispenser of claim 9 in which the dispensing indicator is adapted to represent the number of unit products left or remaining in graphical form on the display.

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11. The dispenser of claim 10 in which the number of unit products is represented with numerical indicia.

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12. The dispenser of any one of claims 7-11 in which the display is an electronic display.

13. The dispenser of any one of claims 7-12 wherein the dispensing indicator is an electronic indicator.

5 14. The dispenser of any one of claims 7-13 in which the dispensing indicator is a dispensing counter.

15 15. The dispenser of any one of the preceding claims having the unit products.

16. The dispenser of claim 15 wherein the unit products are pharmaceutical products.

15 17. The dispenser of claim 16 wherein the pharmaceutical products are oral dosage forms.

18. The dispenser of claim 15, 16 or 17 wherein the unit products are pills.

20 19. The dispenser of any one of the preceding claims in which the dispensing mechanism is adapted to dispense a predetermined number of unit products per actuation.

25 20. The dispenser of claim 19 wherein the predetermined number is one.

21. The dispenser of any one of the preceding claims wherein the storage area is provided in a first dispenser part and the timing mechanism and outlet

opening are provided in a second dispenser part attached to the first dispenser part.

22. The dispenser of claim 21 wherein the  
5 dispensing mechanism is provided in the second dispenser part.

23. The dispenser of claim 21 or 22 wherein the  
first and second dispenser parts are releasably  
10 attached.

24. The dispenser of claim 21, 22 or 23 wherein  
the first dispenser part has an access opening through  
which the unit products are transferable from the  
15 storage area into the second dispenser part and the  
dispenser has a closure which is selectively  
connectable with the first and second dispenser parts  
to respectively close the access opening and the  
outlet opening.

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25. The dispenser of claim 24 wherein the  
closure is a cap.

26. The dispenser of claim 24 or 25 wherein the  
25 closure, on the one hand, and the first and second  
dispenser parts, on the other hand, have co-operable  
connecting structures for selectively connecting the  
closure to the first and second dispenser parts.

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27. The dispenser of claim 26 wherein the connecting structures on the first and second dispenser parts are the same.

5 28. The dispenser of claim 26 or 27 wherein the second dispenser part has a further connecting structure which is co-operable with the connecting structure of the first dispenser part which co-operates with the connecting structure of the closure  
10 to enable connection of the first and second dispenser parts.

29. The dispenser of any one of the preceding claims in which the timing mechanism is operatively  
15 coupled to the dispensing mechanism so as to be actuated in response to actuation of the dispensing mechanism.

30. The dispenser of any one of the preceding claims in which the timing mechanism is operatively  
20 coupled to a detector adapted to detect the dispensing of a unit product from the dispenser whereby the timing mechanism is actuated in response to the detector detecting dispensing of a unit product.

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31. A dispensing module for attachment to a container for a multiplicity of unit products in the form of the second dispenser part of claim 22 or any claim appendant on claim 22.

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32. A hand-held dispenser for dispensing a multiplicity of unit products substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and illustrated by, FIGURES 2-12 or FIGURES 13-14 of the  
5 accompanying drawings.

33. A dispensing module for attachment to a container for a multiplicity of unit products substantially as hereinbefore described with reference  
10 to, and illustrated by, FIGURES 2-12 or FIGURES 13-14 of the accompanying drawings.